

7th February 1924]

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ All I can say is that Sir Ahmad Tambi was the only person who addressed the Government. Sir Ahmad Tambi stated that certain records which were absolutely essential for him to embark on his inquiry were not available and I think there was some kind of search for the records which went on for some time. Sir Ahmad Tambi said that the occasion had gone by for any such inquiry just now and that he allowed it to drop. We thought that he consulted his colleagues.”

Mr. YAHYA ALI SAHIB :—“ I must ask, if the answer to clause (d) is based only upon the report of Sir Ahmad Tambi, whether that is also the opinion of the other members of the Committee.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If the hon. Member desires further information, I will investigate into the matter and publish the circumstances under which the inquiry was dropped.”

Committee to inquire into the Hindu-Muslim disputes.

285 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HYE SAHIB : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether a Committee was formed to inquire into the Hindu-Muslim disputes regarding the playing of music in front of mosques on the motion of Sir Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar; and whether the Government will lay on the table the deliberations of the said Committee?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 284.

Constitution of districts, divisions and taluks.

Re-grouping of village officers.

286 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the re-grouping of village officers recently effected in the district of North Arcot has not only caused much hardship and dissatisfaction to the large body of village officers but detriment to their work inasmuch as the areas assigned to many of the village officers under re-grouping, sometimes including villages six to seven miles apart, have been arbitrarily fixed without regard to securing efficiency ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the course of re-grouping the claims of experienced karnams were, in many cases, overlooked and new men appointed without regard to service or efficiency ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the recent reduction in the number of village menials has left a large number of villages without a village munsif, or a karnam, or a talaiyari or even a vettiyan with the result that none is available in those villages for safeguarding even Government property ; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the reduction in the number of village menials has made it difficult for the village officers to attend to collection work satisfactorily ?

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A.—The Board of Revenue being the authority dealing with village officers and the grouping of villages under the Madras Acts II of 1894 and III of 1895, the Government are not in possession of the details asked for.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Will the Government call for the information seeing that a number of resolutions have been given notice of on this important matter ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—“ Will the hon. Member definitely say what information is required ? ”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Is the hon. Member aware of the large number of resolutions that have been tabled in this House, of the large number of meetings of protest against this policy of re-grouping of villages and of other agitation that has been going on for a good long time past, and will he, in view of the unanimous opinion against that policy prevailing in the country, order first the suspension of such re-grouping till the principles governing it are laid before this House ? Secondly, will he order the dissolution of such groupings that have since been made, except in cases where villages have been grouped for the reason that they become dwindled which will not justify their being kept as separate units ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—“ I do not see the need to suspend the order that has already been made.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Perhaps I put the two questions together as one. Let me put it properly. My first point was whether he would kindly have the order of re-grouping done since last March or April reconsidered so that, as far as possible, they might be dissolved and the original units restored. My second point was this : In view of the very strong feeling and unanimous feeling existing against such a policy in this Presidency, will he kindly order such re-grouping to be done in future merely for the sake of economy and only on the ground that a village had dwindled to be too small for a separate unit ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—“ The matter will be considered.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I think we had better stop the questions and answers now. We have already reached 12-30. There are a number of items on the Order paper for the rest of the day. We shall resume these questions to-morrow morning from where we have left off.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ May I take it, Sir, that this question No. 286 also stands adjourned for to-morrow ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Yes.”